



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Warning: Monogenetic Flukes

By Rusty Strader

For the last couple of years, I have had a clamping problem with my guppies. The problem only affects the males and mainly affects the show size males. The clamping usually affected both the caudal and dorsal. An affected tank would start with one or two males being slightly clamped and within 24 hours, almost all of the fish would be completely clamped. Often, half of the fish would be dead within a day. The disease would usually only affect one or two tanks at a time and would sometimes not show up for six months.

In addition to the clamping, the caudal would sometimes have a slight film or almost a fungus appearance. For quite a while, I treated the fish with various bacterial and fungal medicines, but was not successful in treating the disease. I would always end up dumping the tank and bleaching it.

I treated all of my tanks with this medicine and have not had a reoccurrence. I should add that while I was testing these medicines, I did do water changes to the test tanks and had to add more fish.

Hopefully, I have eliminated this parasite from my tanks. But the very minimum, I have found an effective treatment. A cheap microscope can be purchased at most discount stores for around twenty dollars. These microscopes are not good enough to identify types of bacteria, but will enable you to tell if you have a parasite problem.

The most important lesson that I have learned is to try to properly identify a disease and not give up on trying to find an effective treatment.

After hearing about the problem, Don Saurers suggested that I may have a parasite infestation. I tried several parasite medicines, but still was not able to successfully treat the disease. I finally purchased a microscope to help identify my problem. I placed an affected fish under the microscope and was amazed to see the caudal completely infested with worms! The worms were attached to the tail by vicious looking hooks. I could not find any worms on the body or gills. After looking through a fish disease book, I identified the parasites as monogenetic flukes. I isolated two affected tanks and started treating them with various parasite medicines. The microscope came in very handy at this point. I would treat the tanks with a certain medicine and then check the fish with the microscope.

The first two medicines that I used did not even reduce the level of infestation. A third medicine that I used reduced the infestation after the recommended treatments, but did not kill all of the flukes. I then treated the test tanks with a well known medicine at three times the recommended dosage and this did not even reduce the level of infestation. Finally, I tried a medicine called Paragon by Aquatronics. After the first of three treatments, I could not find a single fluke!

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Filtration

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Thank you Bryan Chin, Gene Baudier, Jay Crane, Luke Roebuck and Stan Shubel for their photo donations.

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